



- thick, waxy skin to reduce loss of water and to reflect heat
- large, fleshy stems to store water
- thorns and thin, spiky or glossy leaves to reduce water loss
- spikes protect cacti from animals wishing to use stored water
- deep roots to tap groundwater
- long shallow roots which spread over a wide area
- plants lie dormant for years until rain falls

How do the above features, help a cactus to survive in the desert?

What would happen if they didn't have these?